

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday March 16, 2005

CONTACT: J.B. Hanson, MPA, 410 385-4702 Darlene Frank, MPA, 410 385-4480

Maryland Port Administration Joins International Cruise Organization

(World Trade Center, Baltimore, MD) In a continuing effort to further expand the cruise line business in Baltimore, the Maryland Port Administration has joined an the International Council of Cruise Lines (ICCL).

"Our membership into the ICCL will help us extend our networking capabilities to ensure that the cruise business will continue here at the Port," said M. Kathleen Broadwater, Acting Executive Director for the Maryland Port Administration.

During the 2004 cruise season, 214,000 passengers on 69 cruise ships passed through Maryland's Port of Baltimore. The 2005 season will see nine-night Caribbean cruises, five-night Bermuda cruises and one thirteen-night Caribbean cruise leaving the Port.

The ICCL has been in existence since 1990. The ICCL Associate Membership consists of 91 national and international entities involved in the cruise industry and 13 of the major international cruise lines. In 2003, the cruise industry generated \$25.4 billion to the U.S economy and created 295,000 jobs.

For more information on Maryland's cruise season, log on to www.marylandports.com/cruise.

###